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PATENT 21411P

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Ian W. Rodger, et al.

Serial No.: 10/561,672

Art Unit: 1617

Date Filed: December 21, 2005

Examiner: Jennifer M. Kim

For: COMBINATION THERAPY FOR TREATING CHRONIC  
INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**COMMUNICATION**  
**IN RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 24, 2009 OFFICE ACTION**

This Communication is being filed in response to the February 24, 2009 Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the February 24, 2009 Office Action is due on March 24, 2009. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

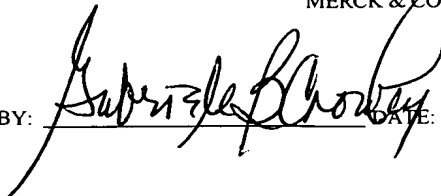
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DATE OF DEPOSIT March 19, 2009

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EM 046775271 US

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE APPEARING BELOW.

MERCK & CO., INC.

BY:  DATE: March 19, 2009